



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

JUN 12 2003

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF

**B-19J**

Gregory L. Mounts, P.E.  
District Engineer  
District 2, Illinois Department of Transportation  
819 Depot Avenue  
Dixon, Illinois 61021

**RE: Milan Beltway Extension (FAU 5822) Airport Road to Blackhawk Road/John Deere Expressway, Final Environmental Impact Statement, CEQ number 020467**

Dear Mr. Mounts:

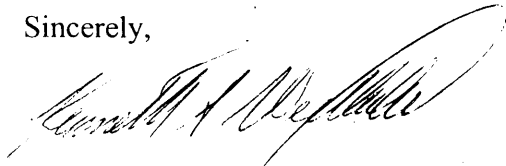
In accordance with Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Milan Beltway Extension (FAU 5822) Airport Road to Blackhawk Road/John Deere Expressway, Rock Island County, Illinois.

The purpose of the project is to address present and projected traffic volumes for the area and reduce traffic flow through the Blackhawk State Historic Site. The Illinois Department of Transportation's preferred alternative is to construct approximately 2 miles of four-lane, access-controlled, divided highway crossing the Rock River, connecting the Milan Beltway in Milan to the John Deere Expressway in Moline. The preferred alternative will displace five residences and eleven businesses, result in permanent loss of 22.3 acres of wetlands, remove 16.2 acres of forested areas, and fill 26.7 acres of the Rock River floodplain.

Based on the information provided in the Draft EIS, the EPA rated the project and preferred alternative LO -lack of objection. The rating indicated our belief that the proposed project will result in minimal adverse impacts to the environment provided that appropriate mitigation is implemented. We did not identify any outstanding environmental issues that needed additional analysis. The project has not changed substantially, and we find that our rating still applies to the preferred alternative presented in this Final EIS. Consequently, we have no further comments on

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Final EIS for the proposed Milan Beltway Extension project. If you have any questions or wish to discuss any aspect of our comments, please contact Anna Miller of my staff at (312) 886-7060.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth A. Westlake", written over a horizontal line.

Kenneth A. Westlake, Chief  
Environmental Planning and Evaluation Branch  
Office of Strategic Environmental Analysis

cc: Norman R. Stoner, Fhwa